

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS GLORIA MOLINA AND  
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

October 28, 2003

There are currently over 800 children under the supervision of the Department of Children and Family Services who are in foster care and are waiting for a loving, adoptive home. There are thousands of additional children, not living with relatives, who are in long-term foster care without a plan for permanency. These children could benefit from an adoptive family. Older children, teenagers, sibling groups and children with special medical, developmental, or emotional needs are included in this population.

There are an insufficient number of approved, prospective adoptive parents willing and able to provide a permanent home for these children.

There is a demonstrated need to expand, modify and enhance recruitment strategies to identify and develop more adoptive families for this target group of children. This endeavor is particularly important because we know that the best chance for a child to become a successful and productive adult is to become part of a stable, permanent, and loving family.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the

Department of Children and Family Services to enhance their efforts to locate and develop adoptive homes and to expand their adoption recruitment strategies on behalf of the waiting children of Los Angeles County.

MOTION

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| Molina      | _____ |
| Yaroslavsky | _____ |
| Knabe       | _____ |
| Antonovich  | _____ |
| Burke       | _____ |

This will include:

- Assessing the consolidation of adoption and foster care recruitment, including blending available funding and providing joint outreach for resource families for all children needing out-of-home care;
- Revamping the orientation and training of prospective caregivers, utilizing a more flexible and user-friendly structure;
- Making full use of Adoption Websites by photolisting waiting children;
- Exploring and facilitating more creative adoption recruitment and matching events, including the expanded use of targeted recruitment for hard to place children;
- Expand community information-sharing and education regarding adoption, including the consideration of Board-sponsored Adoption Forums;
- Collaborating with Faith-based and Community partners, including other private and public adoption agencies;
- Accessing and pursuing additional print, radio, and television media opportunities;
- Actively pursuing grants and contracts focused on the recruitment of hard to place children;
- Engaging parents who have previously adopted to participate in recruitment and outreach activities;
- Developing and implementing a Request For Proposals for a computerized system to support expediting the matching of children with approved adoptive families.

The Department shall report back to the Board in 60 Days to outline the progress made toward the said goals.